

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0041**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... WFF # E-108 - Engineering Building {Current}  
Property Date: ..... 1954  
Address(s): ..... Fulton Street {Current}  
County/Independent City: ..... Accomack  
Vicinity of: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... CHINCOTEAGUE WEST  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Flat		Roof - Not visible
Structural System	Structural System - Not Visible		
Windows	Windows - Sash, double-hung	Aluminum	Windows - 2/2

Site Description: ..... Located in a parking area to the southwest of E-002 (001-0027-0034). Four similar structures are immediately adjacent to this building.

**WUZIT Count:**

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Barracks	Historic

**NR Resource Count:**

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***Individual Resource Information***

WUZIT: ..... Basketball Court

Est. Date of Construction: .... 1954 {Owner/written data}

Accessed? ..... Yes

Primary Resource? ..... Yes

Number of Stories: ..... 3.0

Architectural Style: ..... International Style

Condition: ..... Good

Interior Plan Type: ..... Irregular

Threats to Resource: ..... None Known

Description: The long, narrow rectangular building has a poured concrete slab foundation and a flat roof. While the roof materials are not visible, aluminum flashing runs along the outside edge. The exterior walls of the concrete building are covered with a modern, spray-on stucco finish. The northeast and southwest elevations are twelve bays long; the north and south corner bays are recessed. Concrete ledges are cantilevered out from the wall plane along almost the entire length of the northeast and southwest elevations, at the top of each floor. An enclosed elevator shaft that projects from one bay on the northeast elevation interrupts the ledges. Horizontal lines are incised into the surface of the southeast and northwest elevations at the same level as the ledges. Three small, one-over-one double hung aluminum sash windows are stacked vertically on the northwest and southeast elevations. Two-over-two fixed aluminum sash windows are located in the bays on the top two floors of the long elevations while three-over-three fixed aluminum sash and single fixed aluminum sash windows are on the first. A flat, cantilevered concrete awning projects over doorways on the outer bays, each of which contains a steel door with a long narrow fixed-pane window. The doorways are accessed from grade by a short set of concrete stairs with metal guardrails that lead up to a landing platform directly in front of the doors. A one-story shed roof addition abuts the northeast elevation on the north side of the projecting elevator shaft and contains a set of steel and glass double doors, sheltered by an aluminum flat roof porch supported by steel posts. A set of concrete steps provides access to the doors. A second one-story flat roof addition extends toward the northeast from the recessed north bay and has a set of steel double doors and a single door with a three fixed-pane window.

The building is one of the few buildings constructed on CNAAS/WFF designed with an attention to a twentieth-century architectural style idiom. The building shows elements of the International Style with an absence of ornament, attention to the creation of rectangular, flat roofs, reinforced concrete construction, and smooth wall surfaces.

***Cemetery Information***

***Bridge Information***

***National Register Eligibility Information***

Historic Context(s): ..... Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

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### *Significance Statement:*

This three-story building, built in 1954, is one of five almost identical buildings grouped together along the northwest side of Fulton Street near the geographic center of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) main base. Originally, the building was used as enlisted men's barracks for the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS). The building was designated as the "Barracks...Under Construction" on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. It appears as "E-108" on the 1957 "General Development Plan – Naval Air Station, Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. The building is currently used as the Engineering Building. To the southwest there is an open field covered with grass while the Sound Rocket/Balloon Project Building (001-0027-0040, WFF # E-107) is located to the northeast. Continuous concrete sidewalks on all sides surround the building.

The building is representative of a Military/Defense property type that gained importance in the New Dominion (1945 – present) period. The building was one of several buildings constructed as part of the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) in the mid-1950s. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station.

The Engineering Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The resource has lost its integrity due to alterations to the resource and its setting. The resource's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been adversely affected by numerous additions, the use of a modern exterior treatment, and the replacement of the building's doors, windows and other original building fabric. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting, feeling, and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

### *Bibliographic Documentation*

**Department of Historic Resources  
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**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0041**

*Reference #:* 1

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... Giffels and Valet

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

*Reference #:* 2

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

*Reference #:* 3

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

**Ownership Information**

**Graphic Media Documentation**

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21534	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 1-4

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events**

*CRM Event #* 1,

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2004/07/99

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

*CRM Event #* 2,

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2003/08/08

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814